

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109453 TOSEC 040289

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS (FRED BROWN)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DAILY BRIEFING MAY 13: SOUTH AFRICA AND PHILIP-
PINES

NO. 26

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EXCHANGE AT TODAY'S BRIEFING:

BEGIN TEXT

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT THIS MORNING THAT THE UNITED STATES
HAS SOME PLANS WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA -- TO TAKE A
NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH WOULD CHANGE U. S. POLICY TOWARDS
SOUTH AFRICA. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS REPORT OR ANY OF THE
PLANS THAT WERE OUTLINED IN IT?

A: I THINK YOU'RE REFERRING TO THESE STORIES COMING OUT
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OF ABIDJAN; ARE YOU NOT, DON?

Q: THAT'S RIGHT.

A: WELL, I'M NOT INFORMED ON WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN ABIDJAN,
AND I THINK IN ANY EVENT PERHAPS YOU UNDERSTAND I WOULDN'T

BE DISCUSSING THAT KIND OF INTERNAL GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSION. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NO U. S. GOVERNMENT POLICY HAS BEEN ADOPTED FOR THE TAKING OF SUCH, QUOTE, "PUNITIVE MEASURES," UNQUOTE, AS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE. BUT I THINK THE MAIN POINT IS THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN VIENNA BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER; AND I THINK THAT IS REALLY THE IMPORTANT THING TO NOTE WITH REGARD TO THIS MATTER.

Q: DID YOU SAY "POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE"?

A: POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, YES.

Q: FRED, ARE YOU AWARE OF A BRIEFING THAT WAS GIVEN THIS MORNING IN PREPARATION FOR THE MONDALE TRIP WHICH GAVE RATHER A STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE STORIES COMING OUT OF ABIDJAN WERE ACCURATE -- NOT IN THE DEGREE OF DETAIL THAT APPEARED IN THOSE STORIES BUT, RATHER, THAT THERE IS AN INTENTION BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT TO PUT A DEGREE OF PERSUASION UPON THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO CHANGE THEIR INTERNAL POLICIES?

A: WELL, I WASN'T PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING, AND I DON'T HAVE A READOUT FROM IT. IT WAS JUST RECENTLY CONCLUDED, I BELIEVE. IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, I WAS AWARE OF THE BRIEFING BUT NOT WHAT WENT ON IN IT, OZZIE. END TEXT.

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2. PLEASE NOTE THAT WHITE HOUSE BACKGROUNDER MORNING MAY 13 (AARON AND LAKE) TOOK FRANKER APPROACH REGARDING WHAT MONDALE PLANS TO SAY TO VORSTER AND WAS MUCH CLOSER TO REPORTS COMING OUT OF ABIDJAN COM MEETING. MY RELATIVELY HIGHROAD LINE WAS SPECIFICALLY CLEARED BY ACTING SECRETARY.

3. ONLY OTHER ITEM OF INTEREST CONCERNED RELEASED FROM DETENTION OF MRS. HERRERA, WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY GOVERNMENT OF PHILIPPINES SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND WHO HAD COMPLAINED OF BEING TORTURED. AT YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING, I SAID CHARGE HAD BROUGHT CASE TO ATTENTION OF GOP AT HIGH LEVEL; THAT TWO EMBOFFSHAD INTERVIEWED HER; AND THAT WE WERE FOLLOWING CASE WITH INTEREST IN KEEPING WITH OUR CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

4. TODAY I SAID: "WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY OUR EMBASSY IN MANILA THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ORDERED THE RELEASE OF MRS. HERRERA. WE ARE PLEASED THAT SHE IS BEING RELEASED AND THAT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCE- OF

HER DETENTION IS CONTINUING." IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON

WHETHER OUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN CASE HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH HER RELEASE, I REPLIED ON BACKGROUND "I WOULD
SUSPECT THAT IT DID." I ALSO SAID FOR THE RECORD THAT
THE GOP HAD INVITED THE EMBASSY TO VISIT MRS. HERRERA
WHILE IN DETENTION, A FACT NOT KNOWN TO ME AT BRIEFING
TIME YESTERDAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, US, SF, RP, (HERRERA, TRINIDAD)
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